

VEHICLE SAFETY BELTS

The average American has a one in three lifetime risk of suffering serious injury in a vehicle accident. One may not be able to control all the circumstances contributing to an accident, but one can significantly reduce the probability of serious injury or death by wearing a vehicle safety belt while driving or riding in a car or truck.

Safety belts provide protection by:

- X Decreasing the person's momentum and thus the impact resulting from the rapid deceleration of a collision.
- X Distributing the force of the impact across the most robust parts of the body.
- X Reducing the risk of hitting the steering wheel, dashboard, windshield, or other hard objects.
- X Preventing the wearer from being thrown from the vehicle.
- X Helping maintain control during minor impacts by keeping the driver behind the wheel.

Always use safety belts because:

- X The majority of accidents occur in good weather, on dry pavement, and within 25 miles of home.
- X A person thrown from a car in an accident is 25 times more likely to be killed.
- X Modern seat belt designs do not restrict normal movement.
- X Airbags are designed to work in conjunction with shoulder belts.
- X In the rare case of an accident involving fire or submersion, seat belts increase the likelihood of safe escape by decreasing the probability that the wearer will be unconscious.
- X Maryland law requires that children under 4 be restrained in an approved child safety seat; front seat passengers 4 years or older must wear a seat belt.

X The use of safety belts is required on Fort Derrick by all motor vehicle occupants

Finally, remember that wearing a safety belt is the simplest, most effective way to reduce one's risk of accidental death or permanent disability.

If you have questions about seat belts please call EHS at x1451.